

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C Journey song 869

December 22, 2024

# Good News

# dear Padre

# OLS News

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) Micah 5:1-4a / Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:39-45**

Most of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear.

Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds.

Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that?

That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God. It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when He was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process.

—Father Joseph Juknialis

Having a good day? Thank God for it. Struggling through a bad day? Invite God into it. Just another "ordinary" day? Find God in it. And - every day - praise God, for life is a gift never to be wasted.

**Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?**

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish.

In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

—The Redemptorists

**Pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for their release to praise the Lord. In return, these Souls will pray for us.**

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This sign on a church in Pennsylvania is a helpful reminder during the Advent season: "Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God."

### \*Mass Schedule:

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

Weekdays Tues. thru Fri. 8:30 AM

Confessions: Sat. 4 to 4:30 PM or by appt.

This weekend, Dec. 21st-22nd, the 2nd collection will be a Special Collection for Retired Religious, sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office. Your donation will help the more than 24,000 senior religious (sisters, brothers, and religious order priests) who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Thank you for your generosity during this Season of Giving.

### Mass Schedule for Christmas and for January 1st

Tues. Dec. 24th Christmas Eve—  
Mass at 5:00 pm (no morning Mass)

Wed. Dec. 25th Christmas Day—  
Mass at 9:30 am

No 8:30 am weekday Mass on  
Thur. Dec. 26th or Fri. Dec. 27th

Wed. Jan. 1st (New Year's Day) is a Holy Day of Obligation: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God—  
Mass at 9:30 am (no evening Mass)

Please help yourself to the beautiful 2025 Calendar, which features places of pilgrimage. This calendar is a gift from the parish, (on the table in the Social Hall). A blessed new year to all of you!

First Friday Holy Hour is January 3rd at 9 am, following 8:30 Mass. It is also the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Hope you can join us!

Please take a moment to say a prayer for all of our sick and deceased parishioners.

## Pray for our Sick and Deceased Loved Ones

### Father Josh's Liturgical Tidbits: Kissing the Altar

Have you ever noticed the Priest kissing the altar at the beginning and the end of mass? The practice of reverencing the altar with a kiss is one of the most ancient liturgical traditions and can be dated back to the 4th century.

A kiss, from the earliest of times, is not only a token of love, but also under certain circumstances a symbol of profound respect. Because of its basic meaning, it has been used in worship by many ancient religions and made its way into the worship of the early Christians.

The priest, before and at the end of the celebration, kisses the altar for two main reasons: (1) Jesus is the center, source, and goal of our worship. The altar is the center point of the celebration of the Mass, so when the priest reverences the altar with a kiss he is showing his love for Christ who is the center of life and worship.

And (2) The kiss also signifies the union of the Bridegroom (Christ) and his Bride (the Church), so not only is the kiss of the priest representing the people (the bride) in their love and reverence for Christ, but it is also representing Christ (the Bridegroom) in His love for His spouse, for the sacrifice He is about to make for her in the celebration of Mass.

Genny Amante †	Alma Kopernik	Diana Pallari †
Joe Beuchat	Ronald Longacre †	Miguel Pena †
Vernon Burgess	Lou Ann Martin †	Kerry Phillips †
Lucia Carillo †	Pat Martin	Linda & Dennis Porter
Al & Estelle Cartlidge	Priscilla McEfee †	Janet Saitone †
Reuben Chavez †	Jack Meissner †	Lori Sinclair
Ron & Fran Dennis	Mary Meissner	Frances Smith †
Mary Deveny †	Diane & Larry Miller † †	Rikki Taddei
Dolores Gard †	Fran Moale †	Marcella Unalles †
Paul Gray	Dante Najera †	Ruby Vocke †
Dan Higgins	Colin & Susan O'Brien † †	John Willhoit
Aubrey Hawkins †	Kathy O'Donnell	Carole Zimmerman †
Jane † & Reed Hilliard	Lawrence Oliver †	
Matthew Hunt †	Scott Oswald †	
Nancy Janus †	Francis Ouellette	
Erin Kelly	Cindee & Mitchell	
Karen Klemek †	Padula † †	

### Weekly Mass Intentions

December 21	Saturday	5:00 pm	<b>John Willhoit</b>
December 22	Sunday	9:30 am	<b>Arlynne Swanson †</b>
December 23	Monday	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>JoAnn Glendenning</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Vernon and Luci Burgess</b>
December 26	Thursday	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
December 27	Friday	—	<b>NO MASS</b>

### Weekly Offerings

Sunday Dec, 8th	\$ 1,031.00
Maintenance	\$ 430.00
Helping Hands & Westwood Resource Ctr	\$ 284.00
Mass Stipends (Nov. 17-Dec. 1)	\$ 1,400.00
Immaculate Conception Holy Day	\$ 193.00

### --- This Weekend's Ministry Schedule ---

#### Eucharistic Ministers      Lector

<b>SAT. 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Cynthia Riggins, Lani Hovland</b>	<b>Nita Jimenez</b>
<b>SUN. 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Jessica Dowling Julie Chavez, volunteer</b>	<b>Larry Gibbs</b>

Email us at: [olslakealmanor@gmail.com](mailto:olslakealmanor@gmail.com)

Sunday Mass is live on Facebook: <https://fb.me/ourladyofthesnowslakealmanor>.

Our website, [ourladyofsnowsparish.org](http://ourladyofsnowsparish.org).

To receive our bulletin by email, contact Steve DeWitt: [cranmorti@gmail.com](mailto:cranmorti@gmail.com) or call him at 530-258-4222. Thank you, Steve, for your time and effort in doing this for all of us!

**ONLINE GIVING:** simply click the "Donate Now" link on our website [ourladyofsnowsparish.org](http://ourladyofsnowsparish.org). There are also information cards in the Social Hall.

**Commemorative Bricks** can be ordered for \$100. Forms are available in the Social Hall. Contact Steve DeWitt at 530-258-4222 or email him at [cranmorti@gmail.com](mailto:cranmorti@gmail.com) for information.

### **OLS NEWS (continued)--**

#### *A Christmas Prayer*

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings, and teach us  
to be merry with good hearts. Amen.

Please remember if you are in need of spiritual guidance, special anointing, or just information—call the Rectory (530-259-3932) for an appointment. We are here to help and to ease your burden.